



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6303

January Session, 2011

* ____HB06303ENV__041111__ *

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF ILL AND INJURED
ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SHELTERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) Any regional or
2 municipal dog pound facility may enter into a contract with one or
3 more public or private nonprofit animal rescue organizations for the
4 payment by such animal rescue organization of the costs for providing
5 treatment by a licensed veterinarian to an injured, sick or diseased
6 animal that is impounded at such regional or municipal dog pound
7 facility. Such contract shall provide that: (1) No costs associated with
8 the provision of such treatment shall accrue to the municipality as a
9 result of such contract, (2) the selection of the licensed veterinarian to
10 provide such treatment shall be made by the public or private
11 nonprofit animal rescue organization that will be responsible for the
12 remittance of payment to such licensed veterinarian who provides
13 such treatment, (3) the determination of whether an animal is injured,
14 sick or diseased and in need of veterinary treatment shall be made by a
15 regional or municipal animal control officer who has custody of such
16 animal, provided if any employee or volunteer of such regional or
17 municipal dog pound facility notifies such animal control officer that
18 an animal is injured, sick or diseased and in need of such veterinary
19 treatment such animal control officer shall contact such public or
20 private nonprofit animal rescue organization to arrange for the

21 treatment of such animal by a licensed veterinarian, and (4) not later
22 than twenty-four hours after receipt of a request from such municipal
23 or regional dog pound facility that such public or private nonprofit
24 animal rescue organization arrange for the provision of such treatment
25 to an injured, sick or diseased animal impounded at such facility, such
26 animal rescue organization shall select a licensed veterinarian to
27 provide such treatment and take custody or control of such animal, as
28 applicable, for the purpose of having such licensed veterinarian
29 provide immediate treatment to such injured, sick or diseased animal.

30 Sec. 2. Section 22-332 of the general statutes is repealed and the
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2011*):

32 (a) The Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control officer or
33 any municipal animal control officer shall be responsible for the
34 enforcement of this chapter and shall make diligent search and inquiry
35 for any violation of any of its provisions. Any such officer may take
36 into custody (1) any dog found roaming in violation of the provisions
37 of section 22-364, (2) any dog not having a tag or plate on a collar about
38 its neck or on a harness on its body as provided by law or which is not
39 confined or controlled in accordance with the provisions of any order
40 or regulation relating to rabies issued by the commissioner in
41 accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or (3) any dog found
42 injured on any highway, neglected, abandoned or cruelly treated. The
43 officer shall impound such dog at the pound serving the town where
44 the dog is taken unless, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian, the
45 dog is so injured or diseased that it should be destroyed immediately,
46 in which case the municipal animal control officer of such town may
47 cause the dog to be mercifully killed by a licensed veterinarian or
48 disposed of as the State Veterinarian may direct. The municipal animal
49 control officer shall immediately notify the owner or keeper of any dog
50 so taken, if known, of its impoundment. Such officer shall immediately
51 notify the owner or keeper of any other animal which is taken into
52 custody, if such owner or keeper is known. If the owner or keeper of
53 any such dog or other animal is unknown, the officer shall
54 immediately tag or employ such other suitable means of identification

55 of the dog or other animal as may be approved by the Chief Animal
56 Control Officer and shall promptly cause (A) a description of such dog
57 or other animal to be published once in the lost and found column of a
58 newspaper having a circulation in such town, and (B) a photograph or
59 description of such dog or other animal and the date on which such
60 dog or animal shall be available for adoption to be posted on a national
61 pet adoption Internet web site, except that if an officer does not have
62 the technological resources to post such information on such web site,
63 such officer shall contact a public or private nonprofit animal rescue
64 organization and request that such organization post such information
65 at such organization's expense.

66 (b) If such dog or other animal is not claimed by and released to the
67 owner within seven days after the date of publication, the municipal
68 animal control officer, upon finding such dog or other animal to be in
69 satisfactory health, may have a licensed veterinarian spay or neuter
70 such dog and sell such dog or other animal to any person who satisfies
71 such officer that he is purchasing it as a pet and that he can give it a
72 good home and proper care. The municipal animal control officer may
73 retain possession of such dog or other animal for such additional
74 period of time as he may deem advisable in order to place such dog or
75 other animal as a pet and may have a licensed veterinarian spay or
76 neuter such dog. If, within such period, any dog or other animal is not
77 claimed by and released to the owner or keeper or purchased as a pet,
78 the officer shall cause such dog or other animal to be mercifully killed
79 by a licensed veterinarian or disposed of as the State Veterinarian may
80 direct. Any veterinarian who so destroys a dog shall be paid from the
81 dog fund account. No person who so destroys a dog or other animal
82 shall be held criminally or civilly liable therefor nor shall any licensed
83 veterinarian who spays or neuters a dog pursuant to this section be
84 held civilly liable, including, but not limited to, liability for
85 reconstructive neutical implantation surgery.

86 (c) The town treasurer or other fiscal officer shall pay from the dog
87 fund account the advertising expense incurred under the provisions of
88 this section upon receipt of an itemized statement together with a copy

89 of the advertisement as published. Any person who purchases a dog as
 90 a pet shall pay a fee of five dollars and procure a license and tag for
 91 such dog from the town clerk, in accordance with the provisions of
 92 section 22-338.

93 (d) No regional or municipal dog pound facility, municipality,
 94 regional or municipal animal control officer or public or private
 95 nonprofit animal rescue organization that arranges for the provision of
 96 treatment by a licensed veterinarian to an injured, sick or diseased
 97 animal pursuant to a contract described in section 1 of this act shall be
 98 held criminally or civilly liable, as applicable, for such actions. No
 99 licensed veterinarian who provides treatment to an injured, sick or
 100 diseased animal as a direct result of a contract described in section 1 of
 101 this act shall be held civilly liable for the provision of such treatment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	22-332

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*